They saw that something must be done to break up this constantly increasing Federal army while it was yet in the process of formation.

The Confederate generals determined to urge their views upon the President of the Southern Confederacy. Mr. Davis responded at once to their expressed wish for a conference upon the military situation, and he reached Manassas on September 30, 1861.[1] The conference was held the next day.[2] The generals strongly advised Mr. Davis to reinforce the army at Manassas so that they might cross the Potomac, cut the communications of Washington with the North, and carry the war into the enemy's country. Johnston and Beauregard fixed the strength of an army adequate to these tasks at 60,000 men. Smith was content with a force of 50,000. Additional transportation and supplies of ammunition were also demanded.

The army then at Manassas numbered about 40,000 men. With the quality of the soldiers the generals appeared perfectly content. They only asked that the additional troops sent should be of an equal degree of efficiency,—" seasoned soldiers" as distinguished from " fresh volunteers."[8] But President Davis decided that he could not furnish the required reinforcement without " a total disregard of the

[1] Johnston's *Narrative*, 75.

[a] A *Memorandum*, ***in extenso*** of this conference was drawn up by General Smith, and signed by Johnston and Beauregard as well as by himself. This was done without the knowledge of Mr. Davis, and it afterwards created some feeling **on** his part; 5 "W. R., 884-887: Smith's *Confederate War Papers*, 14-20. *Cf.* I K. & K., 44<j<'/^y.; I B. & L., 254.

[8] Smith, C. W. P., 17, 35.